

classified in class 428, subclass 448 and the claims of Group II (claims 4-10 and 13-18) which are drawn to a process for producing a coating, allegedly classified in class 427, subclass 162. The Examiner takes the position that the inventions of Group I and Group II are related as product and process of making and that the inventions are distinct because the product as claimed can be made by another and materially different process such as by chemical vapor deposition.

The applicants do not necessarily agree with the Examiner's argument in support of restriction, particularly as the Examiner is not likely to be unduly burdened in her search, since a search for niobium-containing optical layers will likely encompass references drawn to methods of making such coatings. However, in an effort to expedite prosecution of the application on the merits, applicants hereby elect in response to the written restriction requirement, without traverse, the claims of Group I drawn to the optical coatings for examination on the merits.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned on any questions which might arise at the telephone number indicated below. Reconsideration and an early examination of the claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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